

is, therefore, probable that both the Coot and the Gallinule breed in those ponds."

The above, it will be observed, was written by Mr. Hendrickson before our investigations of last summer (1905), and though we were then only able to establish the fact of the breeding of the Gallinules, our search was conducted too superficially and intermittently to detract from the probability that the Coot may also nest here. In fact I am very much inclined to agree with Mr. Hendrickson that the Coot also nests here, at least occasionally if not regularly; since his identification, which I regard as positive, as to its presence there on June 28, in the previous year (1904) at so late a date, must be regarded as significant.

It is hoped that this important question, which can by no means be regarded as settled definitely in respect of the Coot, may be determined during the coming season (1906), since extensive filling in of these flats has already commenced and unless the matter is absolutely decided now, it must hereafter be regarded by ornithologists as an opportunity neglected.

UNPUBLISHED LETTERS OF JOHN JAMES AUDUBON AND SPENCER F. BAIRD.

BY RUTHVEN DEANE.

I.

I TAKE unusual pleasure in presenting the following letters, written by two such prominent characters, who have the love and respect of the ornithological world, and whose life and writings are ever cherished. Another point of interest is the fact that Audubon in his fifty-eighth year formed, through correspondence, the acquaintance of young Baird, then only fifteen years of age, and, appreciating the young man's ardent love for natural history, his energy and marked ability as a field collector and close observer, wrote him letters of encouragement which doubtless had a stimulating influence. These letters, representing certain periods be-

tween 1840 and 1846, show a growing friendship between their authors.

Baird made his first visit to Audubon in New York in February, 1842, and in November of the same year Audubon wrote an urgent letter to his young friend, inviting him to accompany him on his proposed trip to the Missouri River, and offering him most liberal inducements. During these years Baird was furnishing Audubon with much valuable material in both birds and quadrupeds. Some of the birds which he collected in and about Carlisle, Pa., and which are referred to in these early letters, are to-day in the Baird brothers collection in the Smithsonian Institution. This collection numbered over 3000 skins and formed the basis of the present National Museum collection.

The two species of *Tyrannula*, the subject of their first ornithological paper, are probably mentioned in these letters for the first time. A letter from Mr. Witmer Stone, relative to other correspondence on the subject of these flycatchers, to which he has had access, is so complete and to the point, that I quote in full.

“The little Flycatchers mentioned in the following letters, whose identity caused so much speculation on the part of the young ornithologists of Carlisle, are now placed in the genus *Empidonax*, one of the most perplexing groups of North American birds.

“There occur in Pennsylvania four distinct species. (1) *E. virescens*, first clearly distinguished by Vieillot, and almost simultaneously by Wilson, but subsequently for many years known by the name *acadicus* Gmelin, of very doubtful application. (2) *E. trailli*, first described by Audubon (our eastern race is *E. trailli alnorum*). (3) *E. flaviventris*, the bird described by Baird in the letter to Audubon, dated June 4, 1840, and later published under the above name. (4) *E. minimus*, the bird described briefly in the letter to Audubon dated June 21, 1841, and compared with *acadicus*, and finally published along with the other in the first volume of the ‘Proceedings’ of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, by the brothers Baird; this paper being Spencer Baird’s first contribution to science.

“Swainson and Richardson had published a species of this same group under the name *pusilla*, with which the Bairds vainly endeavored to identify one or the other of their new species without

success. In fact, *pusilla* of Swainson and Richardson remained a sort of 'bug-a-boo' until Mr. Brewster finally disposed of it as unrecognizable. (See Auk, Vol. XII, p. 157.)

"The letters of Wm. Baird to his brother throw some interesting side lights on the history of these new flycatchers, and for the privilege of making extracts from them I am indebted to Miss Lucy H. Baird. William was then in Washington, but evidently kept fully in touch with bird matters at Carlisle. Under date of Aug. 24, 1841, he writes, in comment on Audubon's letter of July 29: 'I am not at all surprised that Audubon thinks the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher to be *pusilla*.' He, it will be noted, had identified '*minimus*' as a female or young of '*pusilla*' and '*flaviventris*' as the adult male. On Jan. 7, 1842, William Baird writes: 'Mr. Audubon must be a much cleverer fellow than I supposed him to be. His present of the biography was very kind. You know I told you in the fall that the little Yellow-bellied Flycatcher answered pretty well to Richardson's plate of *Tyrannula pusilla*, but Townsend¹ said he had seen thousands of the bird on the Columbia and pronounced our little bird not to be the *pusilla*, however, I think Audubon right.'

"Spencer Baird still seemed to think one or both were new, and advocated publishing them, but William wrote on Feb. 1, 1842, strongly discouraging this idea. By June 4, 1843, however, he had come round to his brother's view and says: 'I think we had better publish as soon as possible in the Journal of the Philadelphia Academy. . . . At all events the Rocky Mountain bird and our Yellow-belly are different, one must be new and those fellows in Philadelphia (who, by the way, know little or nothing) would sooner believe the bird got out there to be *pusilla* than ours. We might for the matter of that, describe either and they would not know whether we were right or wrong.' On the strength of this the paper was written and submitted to the Philadelphia Academy, and on July 16, 1843, we have the following from Wm. Baird: 'I received a letter from Townsend. He says Cassin wrote to him about the birds we described and sent on. I suppose he wanted Townsend's opinion. Townsend wrote to him that he had no

¹ John K. Townsend, who visited the Columbia River in 1834, was now located in Washington. The bird he saw was probably *trilli*.

doubt they were new. For the mere opinion of those Philadelphians that a bird is a new species, I would not give one straw, but no doubt they may think Townsend knows so much about these birds that his word would be enough. He certainly knows more than any of them.'

"The last chapter in the history, I published in 'The Osprey, Vol. IV, p. 173. It is a letter from Cassin to Spencer Baird, July 5, 1843: 'Dear Baird: Dished! Last evening being the 4th of July the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia did not muster a quorum, the honorable members being as it would appear patriotic as well as scientific, were probably helping to celebrate the anniversary of the nation's birthday in a manner seeming to them right and proper, which was pretty enough in them, and to which I have not the slightest objection excepting that I had not the pleasure of reading to them your paper.' It was read the next week, however, and ordered printed July 25th. Audubon revised his opinion of the new species, accepted them gracefully and figured them in the appendix of Vol. VII of his 1840-44 edition of 'Birds of America.' Let us hope that Wm. Baird, in the same spirit, revised his opinion of the Philadelphia ornithologists."

I take this occasion to express my hearty thanks to Miss M. R. Audubon for the generous gift of the Baird letters, and to Miss Lucy H. Baird, who kindly furnished me with copies of Audubon's correspondence to her father, five of the letters being a direct reply to those sent by Baird. I am also indebted to Prof. O. B. Super of Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa., for information regarding certain names and localities mentioned in the letters, and to Dr. Charles W. Richmond and Mr. Witmer Stone for assistance rendered. In Dr. Coues's Bibliography of 1878 (in 'Birds of the Colorado Valley'), in quoting the 1840-44 edition of 'Birds of America,' he writes the following, so beautifully and truthfully expressed: "If a trace of sentiment be permissible in bibliography, I should say that the completion of this splendid series of plates with the name *bairdii* was significant; the glorious Audubonian sun had set indeed, but in the dedicating of the species to 'his young friend Spencer F. Baird' the scepter was handed to one who was to wield it with a force that no other ornithologist of America has ever exercised."

These Letters are copied "verbatim, literatim, et punctuatim."

BAIRD TO AUDUBON.

Carlisle, Cumberland Co., Pa., June 4, 1840.

Dear Sir

I herewith send you the description of a species of *Tyrannula*, an account of which I have been able to find, neither in your Ornithological Biography and Synopsis, nor in Nuttall's Ornithology. I have obtained three specimens, all in low swampy thickets. Two of them I stuffed, the third (obtained last Saturday) [May 30, 1840] I have in spirits and would gladly send it to you, had I the opportunity. Their habits were very similar to those of the Little Tyrant Flycatcher. (*Muscicapa Pusilla.*) Male.

Bill large, depressed, decidedly convex in its lateral outlines, and very broad. Third quill longest. Bill dusky above, yellow beneath. Feet dark brown. Upper parts clear greenish olive. Cheeks and sides of neck of a slightly lighter tint. General color of lower parts gamboge yellow, throat slightly darker, across the breast tinged with yellowish green. Quills and tail brown. First row of smaller wing coverts tipped with yellowish white, as also are the secondary coverts. Secondary quills narrowly tipped and margined with the same. Loral space and eyelids yellowish. Outer edge of tail feathers, like the Back. Length to end of tail $5\frac{1}{2}$, to end of wings $3\frac{11\frac{1}{2}}{12}$, of claws $4\frac{4\frac{1}{2}}{12}$, wing from flexure $2\frac{6\frac{1}{2}}{12}$; tail 2; distance between end of closed wing and end of tail $1\frac{3\frac{1}{2}}{12}$: Bill along ridge $\frac{5}{12}$, lower mandible $\frac{7}{12}$: Tarsus $\frac{7\frac{1}{2}}{12}$: Hind toe and claw $\frac{4\frac{2}{3}}{12}$, middle toe and claw $\frac{5\frac{1}{2}}{12}$: First quill $\frac{4}{12}$ less than third; $\frac{3\frac{1}{4}}{12}$ less than second. Middle tail feathers $\frac{11\frac{1}{2}}{12}$ less than the outer. It differs very decidedly from the Little Tyrant Flycatcher. The color of the upper parts is of a much brighter and purer color. The white and ash of the throat, neck, and sides, is replaced by the yellow and greenish yellow. The color of the rest of the lower parts is much brighter, being a decided gamboge. The bill is much larger, and broader, being very decidedly convex in its lateral outlines. The tail also is of a darker brown.

I send you the measurement of another Flycatcher which I shot last Saturday. It was flying about from one low bush to another, in a field by the creek. I heard no note. Length to end of tail

5 3/4, of wings 4 7/12, of claws $\frac{31}{12}$: extent 9 1/2: Tail 2 $\frac{41}{12}$, wing from flexure 3 $\frac{21}{12}$: end of closed wing from end of tail 1 $\frac{41}{12}$: Second quill longest $\frac{41}{12}$ longer than the first. Middle tail feathers $\frac{11}{12}$ shorter than outer. Bill along the ridge 5/12, edge of lower mandible $\frac{71}{12}$ tarsus $\frac{61}{12}$; Hind toe and claw 4/12; middle toe and claw $\frac{51}{12}$.

This bird was a female, and resembled the Wood Pewee very much having the same large and broad bill, and pretty much the same claws. It may be a very small individual of that species.

You see Sir that I have taken (after much hesitation) the liberty of writing to you. I am but a boy, and very inexperienced, as you no doubt will observe from my description of the Flycatcher. My brother¹ last year commenced the study of our Birds, and after some months I joined him. He has gone elsewhere to settle and I am left alone. I have been much assisted however by Dr. A. Foster² of this place in various ways, and should the above Flycatcher happen not to have been described, it would gratify me very much to have it honored with his name. This letter is already too long, yet perhaps you will pardon me for adding a few remarks about some of the Birds found about Carlisle. And first, has not the adult male Cape May warbler a black crown? I obtained three specimens this spring, two of which agree with your description, while the third resembles the other two perfectly, except in having a perfectly black crown, as stated by Nuttall.

The Little Tyrant Flycatchers (*M. Pusilla*) were very abundant here this spring. I found them principally on low bushes and trees, in wet places, and I have seen more than a dozen in a day.

The Rough winged swallow is very abundant about here. In fact I may say to the exclusion of the Common Bank Swallow, as I have in vain this spring endeavored to get a specimen of the latter. They breed in the banks along the Letort spring.

¹ William M. Baird, born in Reading, Pa., Aug. 4, 1817, died in Reading, Oct. 19, 1872. Entered Lafayette College 1834. Graduated at Dickinson College 1837. Admitted to Berks County bar, Reading, April 12, 1844. Mayor of Reading 1855-56. Collector of Internal Revenue, 8th District of Pennsylvania, 1869-1872.

² Dr. Alfred Foster, M. D., born 1790, died 1847. Graduated from Dickinson College in 1809. On his tombstone in the cemetery at Carlisle, Pa., is inscribed "Purity of mind and integrity of purpose graced his great attainments in science and literature; and his character happily blended the guilelessness of childhood with the wisdom of mature years."

I procured a singular variety of the Ruby crowned *Regulus* this spring. It has a patch of whitish feathers on the forehead.

I have already trespassed too much on your patience, and will conclude by saying, that if I can be of the slightest assistance to you in any way, be assured that although others may tender it more ably, yet none can more cheerfully. I am Sir, very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

Spencer F. Baird

J. J. Audubon. F. R. S. &c.

[Superscription] John J. Audubon. F. R. S. etc.

86 White Street,
New York.

AUDUBON TO BAIRD.

New York, June 13, 1840.

Dear Sir,

On my return home from Charleston S. C. yesterday, I found your kind favor of the 4th inst. in which you have the goodness to inform me that you have discovered a new species of fly-catcher, and which, if the bird corresponds to your description, is, indeed, likely to prove itself hitherto undescribed, for although you speak of yourself as being a youth, your style and the descriptions you have sent me prove to me that an old head may from time to time be found on young shoulders!

I wish you would send me one of the stuffed specimens as well as the one preserved in spirits, and wish you also to rest assured that if the little *Muscicapa* stands as a nondescript that I shall feel pleased to name it after your friend.

I never have seen a specimen of the male of the Cape May warbler with the upper part of the head pure black. Have you compared the *Regulus* with the description of *Regulus Cuvieri*? Could you not send me your bird to look at? Being on the eve of publishing the *Quadrupeds of our Country*, I have thought that you might have it in your power to procure several of the smaller species for me, and thereby assist me considerably. Please to write to me again soon, as I must resume my travels in 8 or

10 days. Have you seen a copy of the small edition of *The Birds of America* which I am now publishing? Believe me, dear sir,

With good wishes, your obt. sert.,

John J. Audubon.

BAIRD TO AUDUBON.

Carlisle, July 14th, 1840.

Dear Sir

I send you those birds I spoke of some time ago and would have sent them sooner had I a suitable opportunity. I write in Carlisle but I shall take the box containing them to Reading, from which place or from Pottsgrove I will send them to Philadelphia. My Grandfather and father lived at Stowe a farm about one mile from Pottsgrove, and it is my intention to spend part of the summer in visiting the scenes of my childhood. Perhaps I shall reach your farm on the Perkiomen in my rambles, and I certainly shall in that event look for the cave in the bank of that creek, should it still exist there, and will listen to the song of the Pewee¹ if audible. I yesterday prepared a quantity of arsenical soap to take along with me, in hope of being able to procure some addition to my collections.

The thrush I sent was shot last spring, and I do not recollect anything about its manners. The *Regulus* was procured on a willow over the Letort spring.² It was in company with many Ruby crowned individuals. I send its measurements below. I have not been able to procure any more individuals of the new? species of *Muscicapa*. The stuffed specimen I send was much injured in shooting and could not be prepared well. Will you please tell me the name of that young warbler accompanying the other birds in the box. I shot two of them together on a hickory tree; they were rather inactive and uttered only a slight "tsee." The shrew in the box, I found last fall lying dead on a path along the Conedogwinit creek. Please tell me its name as I cannot identify it with any of

¹ See Audubon's account of the Pewee Flycatcher nesting in the cave on his "Mill Grove" Farm. (*Ornithological Biography*, Vol. II, 1834, p. 122.)

² A small stream that rises about two miles south of Carlisle, flows through the edge of the town and falls into the Conedogwinit Creek about three miles north of the town.

Godman's¹ animals. I must now explain to you the hieroglyphics on the labels attached to the legs of the birds. The figures on the left hand of the name signify its number in order among the birds stuffed this year. The figures on the other side of the label, have reference to the date of being shot. The first fig. shows the month, the second the day of the month, and the third the year. Thus 5.8.40 signifies May 8th 1840. If you desire it I will send you a list of the birds obtained and seen about here. We have as yet not more than about 125 species, excluding some of the common birds as the Flicker, Dove, Pigeon, Ferruginous thrush etc. which we have not yet stuffed, perhaps on account of the very facility of obtaining them.

I do not know who the individual is whose name is down on your list as Speneer Baird. Some time ago I sent down to Philada. for some numbers of your work, but did not become a regular subscriber which however I would gladly do were it in my power. A Gentleman possessing a large garden near Carlisle recently told me that among the humming birds seen about his flowers, he had frequently observed one apparently green all over, and much larger than any of the others, also one with yellow on its wings. I do not know whether he is hoaxing me or not, perhaps he is, however as he gave me an invitation to come and shoot some, I shall find out. Believe me Dear Sir.

Your Obedient Servant.

Spencer F. Baird.

John J. Audubon.

Regulus — Shot April 16, 1840.

Length to end of tail $4\frac{1}{4}$, of Wings $3\frac{1}{2}$, of claws $4\frac{1}{4}$.
Wing from flexure $2\frac{5}{16}$. Bill along ridge $4\frac{1}{16}$ edge of upper
mandible $7\frac{1}{16}$ Tarsus Middle toe and claw $\frac{10}{16}$.

BAIRD TO AUDUBON.

Carlisle December 10th, 1840.

Dear Sir.

I take this occasion of writing to you to let you know what I have

¹ John D. Godman, author of 'American Natural History' (1st. ed. publ. 1823), 'Rambles of a Naturalist,' etc., etc. Professor of Natural History in the Franklin Institute of Pennsylvania. Born Dec. 1794, died April, 1830.

been doing in the Bird line since I last wrote you. I was away from home all last summer and part of the fall, but when I reached Carlisle in October I set to work with redoubled zeal. It was a source of great regret to me that I was not able to meet you in Philadelphia when I was there during the latter part of September. I saw Mr. Chevalier¹ several times, and found him a very agreeable gentleman.

I have obtained a number of new species since I returned, principally ducks, hawks, owls etc. Some of them are the Scaup duck, the Shoveller, the short eared owl, the long eared owl, the great American Shrike, the Blue Grosbeak together with many others. I also have two more species, descriptions of which I cannot find anywhere. The first is a *Muscicapa*,² obtained Oct. 12th. Body stout, feet long & stout, 3d quill longest. Head dark brown, rest of upper parts greenish olive, lower parts sulphur yellow. Tail edged & tipped narrowly with white. Bill & feet deep black. Lateral outline of upper Mandible slightly convex. Lower mandible with the ridge very distinct. Length to end of tail 6 5/12 ext. 10 3/4. Tarsus $\frac{9\frac{1}{2}}{12}$ Bill 1/2. Tail 2 11/12.

The other bird is a very small woodpecker.³ Has the family look of all the small woodpeckers. Strongly different from all the others. Upper part of head red, lower parts dirty yellow, with a few brown spots on the abdomen. Bill short very broad, with the three ridges of the upper mandible very distinct. Upper mandible brown, lower whitish, both mandibles with the dorsal outlines *convex*, and the bill pointed. Length 5 1/2, wing 3 1/4. If you wish it I will send a more minute description.

What do you think of the birds etc. I sent in the small box. Please to tell me the name of the shrew, and young warbler contained in it.

¹ J. B. Chevalier. His name appears in Vols. I to V. "Birds of America," 8vo, 1840, as the Philadelphia publisher. In the latter part of his life he was unfortunate and was taken care of and provided for by Audubon and his sons up to the time of his death.

² The description strongly indicates *flaviventris* but the measurements of length and extent considerably exceed the average of this species.

³ Probably *D. pubescens* in immature plumage. In the Baird Bros. 'List of Birds found in the vicinity of Carlisle, Cumberland Co., Penn.,' 1844, the species preceding *Picus pubescens* is indicated thus, "*Picus* . . . One specimen obtained." The bird referred to in this letter is possibly the *Picus* in the List with the specific name wanting.

I have been using every exertion to obtain quadrupeds, but with little success as yet. I however have recently secured several valuable auxiliaries from whom I expect a great deal. One of them told me that he had caught last winter a rabbit quite Brownish red.

Professor Allen¹ of our College here told me an anecdote respecting a weasel, which anecdote he had from a highly creditable source. It happened in Maine. "A weasel was introduced into a cellar for the purpose of destroying rats, which he succeeded in doing, with the exception of two or three very large ones. He finally succeeded in killing these in the following ingenious manner. He dug a hole in the ground wide at the entrance, and narrowing gradually from the entrance until it was just wide enough to allow the weasel to pop when it opened again in the air. He was then seen to run into this hole pursued by a large rat, to run out of the narrow end, and immediately to run into the other end again, and attack the rat from behind, and kill it. In this way he succeeded in exterminating the whole." He assured me the story was worthy of all credit.

A week or two ago I shot a Bay Lynx or Wild Cat a mile & a quarter from Carlisle. It was 2 1/2 feet long & weighed 12 1/2 pounds. The general color of the Pelage is of a light yellowish brown, mixed with greyish white. The former most conspicuous about the head & rump. Belly white spotted with black. Fore legs transversely banded with several black stripes inside. Fore legs barred with greyish white on a Brownish red ground outside. Tail yellowish brown above, white beneath a patch of black at the end above. Ears black at base then a triangular space of white, then margined black again. I have a much fuller description & table of measurements in my note book.

Please to let me know when you commence publishing your "Biography of Quadrupeds" etc., and on-what plan it is. Expense etc. I remain.

Your Obedient Servant
Spencer F. Baird.

John J. Audubon. F. R. S.
New York
No. 86 White St.

¹ William Henry Allen, M. D., L. L. D., born March 27, 1808, died August 29, 1882. Professor at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penn., from 1836 to 1849.

AUDUBON TO BAIRD.

New York, December 25, 1840.

My dear sir,

On my return yesterday from a tour of a month, I found your kind favor of the 10th inst. at my house. I regret exceedingly that you and I should not have met at Philadelphia, as I feel sure by the style and contents of your letters to me that you are fond of the study of natural objects, as much as I am.

I have no doubt that your journey during the last summer and autumn was a pleasing one to you, as I can well conceive from the fresh recollections of my many rambles.

You would oblige me much by sending me (through Mr. Chevalier) the *Muscicapa* you obtained Oct. 12th, and also the small woodpecker "with the very broad bill" I am anxious to see those birds, and will take especial care of them, and also return them to you, free of all expense.

I cannot at this moment return to the specimens you have already sent me, but in my next letter, I will assure you of the names of the subjects. I wish I could see your Bay Lynx, as I feel somewhat confident that we have more than two species within our limits.

Your anecdote connected with the sagacity of the Weasel¹ is quite pleasing to me, and will appear in my biographies of quadrupeds bye and bye. I cannot, as yet, give you any estimate of my work on the Quadrupeds of our Country but will do so as soon as possible. With my best wishes, for your health and prosperity, I pray you to consider me as your friend and obt. servant,

John J. Audubon.

BAIRD TO AUDUBON.

Carlisle, June 21, 1841.

Dear Sir

The spring having finally passed by and the migratory birds with it, I take the occasion to let you know the result of the labors of my brother and myself this season. As a general thing birds

¹ Reference to his work shows that the anecdote was not included in the biography of the Weasel.

of all kinds were unusually abundant this spring, nearly all having been found which have been seen at any time before. Many rare birds were found in great abundance, indeed some in such quantities as to induce the belief of Cumberland Valley being on the line of the main route in proceeding north. *Sylvicola Maritima* as usual was rather plenty. Three were shot this spring, as well as three last year. They were always found single or associated with a few individuals of *S. Blackburnia*, *S. Icterocephala*, *S. Virens* etc., and in every situation. Orchards, Willow trees, dry rolling woods & Bottoms. *S. Blackburnia* abounded. Some times as many as forty or fifty were seen in a day. *S. Icterocephala* was exceedingly common, indeed for two or three days, as much so as *S. Coronata*. One day at the North Mountain we must have seen four or five hundred. *S. Castanea* was not so abundant. *S. Maculosa* exceedingly abundant several days. *Trichas Philadelphia* was met with five times, two specimens, male & Female were obtained, one also last year, a female. The two Females differ considerably, both in size and in color. *Helinaia Rubricapilla* was very common. We shot six or eight in one day & could have shot more. *Helinaia Solitaria* was rather common. *H. Peregrina* was met with once. *Myiodioctes Canadensis* exceedingly common. *Myiodioctes Wilsonii* abundant, fifteen & thirty often seen in a day.

There is one flycatcher respecting which we are in doubt, and which was very abundant this spring. It is the one we had considered *M. Pusilla* but a thorough examination of the Biography, has thrown doubt on this supposition, it agrees pretty well with the *M. Acadica* of Nuttall, but not with the *Acadica* of the Synopsis. I will send you one as soon as possible that you may decide the question, as there is no set of Plates in Carlisle to which we might refer. The small yellow bellied Flycatcher which I sent you last summer, was very abundant this spring. Do you wish any more specimens? Dr. George C. Leib¹ of Philadelphia procured that same bird last year, and it was proposed I believe by the Philadelphia Ornithologists to name it *Muscicapa Leibii*, which would do very well. The thrush I sent you, was also quite common in

¹ A resident of Philadelphia, Pa. Described *Fuligula grisea* in 1840. Died prior to 1856.

the mountains around here. Mr. Nuttall indicates it in his description of *Turdus Wilsonia*, or *T. Solitarius*. We obtained two genuine *Muscicapa Traillii*, agreeing precisely with the description, as to size, color, proportion of quills etc. If you have ever been in Cumberland County you will be aware that two parallel ranges of mountains run east & west about six miles from Carlisle on each side. These appear to be the headquarters of the *Sylvicolida* and many others, from where they sally out into the Valley. Of course they are always found in the greatest abundance there. It was in the Northern range, called the North Mountain that we met with *Troglodytes Bewickii*. Three individuals were seen early in the spring and I saw another a few days ago near the very place where I had shot one of the others. *T. Palustris* was shot in a little pond in the South Mountain.

I was considerably surprised at meeting with a small flock of the Pine finch (*Linaria Pinus*) on the 28th of last May. The specimens obtained, (Male & Female) were very bright. Three specimens (one male & two females) of *Peuceea Lincolnii* were added to our collection. Two found on apple trees in the Valley, the other on a pine near the mountain.

Fringilla Leucophrys was very abundant. One day at least sixty were seen in small flocks all over the country.

Coccyzus Caruleus was obtained at the North Mountain, this spring. Only two were seen. — *Vireo Solitarius* was so common that dozens could have been shot in a day.

You will perhaps be surprised to learn that the South Southerly, *Fuligula glacialis* occurs in the Conedogwinit creek near this place. We obtained two specimens, male & female. The first was caught in a small Pond about three miles from town, where it had alighted & where it was unable to escape the Puddle being but three or four yards broad. The other was shot in the creek while flying past my brother. A man living near that water told us that he several times early in the spring had shot a small Black & white duck with a very long tail. May we not expect to see you in Carlisle before a great while?

It would give us very great pleasure indeed. I remain

Yours sincerely

Spencer F. Baird

I omitted to mention the case of an *Astur* which we shot on the 9th of May last. It is very like the young Male of *Astur Fuscus*, the principle difference being in size. The dimensions were as follows. Length to end of tail 16 inches, of wings 11 3/4, of claws 13 1/4, From flexure 8 1/2, extent 28. The specimen was a *Male*. There could be no mistake about the sex, as the testes were large & very apparent to the eyes of both myself and my brother. Can this be *Astur Fuscus*? The fourth quill is longest. The bird appears at least three times as large as a specimen (Male) of *Astur Fuscus*.

S. F. B.

John J. Audubon, Esq.
No. 86 White St.
New York

AUDUBON TO BAIRD.

New York, July 29, 1841.

My dear Sir,—

I have not had time to answer your interesting favor of the 21st until this morning, being now constantly engaged in the figuring, &c., of the Quadrupeds of Our Country; by which I mean that I actually work from daylight every day until I retire to my necessary repose at night.

Your observations upon the birds of passage the last spring are what they have been almost throughout the U. S. The very backward spring which we have experienced this year did no doubt retard the coming into the States the millions of passenger birds that come to us from beyond our limits. The Fly-catcher of which you are in doubt is nevertheless the *M. Pusilla*, and you must not be surprised to find *perhaps* some discrepancy between the specimens you have procured and the descriptions you may have read, as among mine these differences are quite obvious and belonging to either sex or age, as is indeed the case with most of our birds as well as among many of our quadrupeds. Thus, the small yellow bellied Fly-catcher of my friend Leib is nothing else than an adult male of this species! As to the Thrush which I have of yours it is quite in the same predicament being only a Bird of 12 months old of the *Turdus mustelinus* of Wilson. I am indeed surprised that

you should have perceived the "South Southerly" about you, this is, however, no more than an accident, that you should have met with the Golden Eye is not at all strange, as that species occupies at different periods almost any stream of the Union.

I cannot at present tell you when I may have the pleasure of meeting with you at your own domicile, and yet this may happen quite unexpectedly.

Do you not pay attention to the quadrupeds around you? If not, I wish you would!—and moreover I should be highly pleased to hear of your procuring for us all such as may be found in your vicinity. You have *Bats, Wood Rats, & Mice, Weasels, &c., &c.*, all of which I should like to possess specimens at your hands. Could you not save all that you come across with in this way, place them in *common good Rum*, and forward them to me at once or as soon as you have some 2 or three species. I will most cheerfully pay all expenses to Philadelphia addressed to *J. B. Chevalier, No. 70 Dock Street.*

I am now as anxious about the publication of the Quadrupeds as I ever was in the procuring of our Birds, indeed my present interest in Zoology is altogether bent toward the Completion of this department of Natural Science.

Do please write to me often as I am always glad to hear from you, and when I am somewhat slow in answering your letters, be assured that it is altogether on a/c of the excess of Labour that I have to go through.

Believe me with sincere good wishes
Your friend and servant,
John J. Audubon.

(*To be continued.*)